# **CLAIMS**

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1	1.	A flow measuring apparatus comprising:
2	a)	a metering reservoir, the metering reservoir having a volume, a reservoir inlet
3	port, a reservoir outl	et port, a top and a bottom;
4	b)	a control valve, the control valve capable of allowing or stopping liquid from
5	entering the metering	g reservoir;
6	c)	a liquid level sensor, the liquid level sensor located so as to able to sense a
7	fluid level within the	e metering reservoir and operably connected to an upper limit switch and a lower
8	limit switch, the upp	per limit switch having an upper set point and the lower limit switch having a
9	lower set point; and	
8 10 1 10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	d)	an electronics module, the electronics module in electrical communication
141	with the upper limit	switch and the lower limit switch and further in electrical communication with
12	the control valve.	
III Lui	_	
	2.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the upper set point is
2,000	located at the top of	the metering reservoir.
The The street of the street o	3.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the lower set point is
2	located at the bottom	of the metering reservoir.
1	4.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the liquid level sensor
2	comprises a float.	
1	5.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 4 wherein the liquid level sensor
2	further comprises a v	vertical guide, the vertical guide attached to the top of the metering reservoir and
3	the bottom of the m	etering reservoir, and further wherein the float is capable of transversing the

HOU01:664067.3 17

guide vertically.

1		6.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reservoir inlet port is
2	located at the	top of th	ne metering reservoir.
1		7.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reservoir inlet port is
2	located at the	bottom	of the metering reservoir.
1		8.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the volume of the metering
2	reservoir betw		upper set point and the lower set point has an error tolerance of less than 1%.
1		9.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 8 wherein the volume of the metering
2	reservoir betw		e upper set point and the lower set point has an error tolerance of less than
	0.1%.		
1. 1. j		10.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the metering reservoir
2	volume is less	than or	ne gallon.
() <b>1</b> ()		11.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 10 wherein the metering reservoir
2	volume is less	than or	ne quart.
		12.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the metering reservoir is
2	rectangular or	cylindr	ical.
: = \ 1		13.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the metering reservoir
2	further compri	ses a bi	reather vent, the breather vent located on the top of the metering reservoir.
1		14.	The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a power supply,
2	the power supp	ply capa	able of supplying power to the electronics module.

The flow measuring apparatus of claim 14 wherein the power supply

HOU01:664067.3 18

comprises a battery, a solar panel, or current converted to a 12-volt dc power level.

15.

1

2

1 16. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a pump, the pump capable of removing fluid from the metering reservoir through the metering reservoir outlet port.

19

1	17. A flo	ow measuring apparatus comprising:
2	a) a me	tering reservoir, the metering reservoir having a volume, a reservoir inlet
3	port, a reservoir outlet port,	a top and a bottom;
4	b) a tan	k outlet conduit, the tank outlet conduit capable of conducting fluid to
5	the reservoir inlet port;	
6	c) a cor	ntrol valve, the control valve capable of allowing or stopping liquid from
7	flowing from entering the n	netering reservoir;
8	d) a liq	uid level sensor, the liquid level sensor located so as to able to sense a
9	fluid level within the meter	ring reservoir and operably connected to a lower switch, the lower limit
Q.	switch having a lower set p	oint;
0 1 2	e) a pac	Idlewheel, the paddlewheel having a central pivot point and paddles, the
2	paddles radiating from the	central pivot point, the paddles capable of rotating about the central pivot
3 <sup>1</sup>	point, the paddlewheel loca	ated within the tank outlet conduit and capable of rotating in response to
4	fluid flow through the tank	outlet conduit; and
5	f) an el	ectronics module, the electronics module in electrical communication
6	with the paddlewheel and	the lower limit switch and further in electrical communication with the
3 cm 4 cm 6 11 117 11 how 12 2	control valve.	
<b>1</b>	18. The	flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 wherein the lower set point is
2	located at the bottom of the	metering reservoir.
1	19. The	flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 wherein the liquid level sensor
2	comprises a float.	
1	20. The	flow measuring apparatus of claim 19 wherein the liquid level sensor
2	further comprises a vertical	guide, the vertical guide attached to the top of the metering reservoir and
3	the bottom of the metering	g reservoir, and further wherein the float is capable of transversing the
4	guide vertically.	
1	21. The	flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 wherein the reservoir inlet port is
2	located at the top of the met	tering reservoir.

20

HOU01:664067.3

1	22. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 wherein the reservoir inlet port is located at the bottom of the metering reservoir.
2	located at the bottom of the metering reservoir.
1 2	23. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 wherein the volume of the metering reservoir has an error tolerance of less than 1%.
1	24. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 23 wherein the volume of th
2	metering reservoir has an error tolerance of less than 0.1%.
1	25. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 wherein the metering reservoir
2	volume is less than one gallon.
###	26. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 25 wherein the metering reservoir
2	volume is less than one quart.
1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	27. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 wherein the metering reservoir is rectangular or cylindrical.
; <b>1</b> :	28. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 wherein the metering reservoir
2	further comprises a breather vent, the breather vent located on the top of the metering reservoir.
2 2 2 2 2	29. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a power supply
2	the power supply capable of supplying power to the electronics module.
1	30. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 29 wherein the power suppl
2	comprises a battery, a solar panel, or current converted to a 12-volt dc power level.
1	31. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a pump, the
2	pump capable of removing fluid from the metering reservoir through the metering reservoir outlet
3	port.

HOU01:664067.3 21

1

32.

A flow measuring apparatus comprising:

2		a)	a holding tank, the holding tank having a height, a bottom, and a holding tank
3	outlet port;		

Í

- b) a metering reservoir, the metering reservoir in fluid communication with the holding tank and further having a volume, a reservoir inlet port, a reservoir outlet port, a top and a bottom;
  - c) a control valve disposed between the holding tank and the metering reservoir, the control valve capable of allowing or stopping liquid from flowing from the holding tank to the metering reservoir;
  - d) a liquid level sensor, the liquid level sensor located so as to able to sense a fluid level within the metering reservoir and operably connected to an upper limit switch and a lower switch, the upper limit switch having an upper set point and the lower limit switch having a lower set point; and
  - e) an electronics module, the electronics module in electrical communication with the upper limit switch and the lower limit switch and further in electrical communication with the control valve, the electronics module so configured as to be able to receive notification of activation of the upper limit switch and the lower limit switch, and further configured so as to be able to direct the opening or closing of the control valve and to monitor the activation of the lower limit switch and upper limit switch.
  - 33. The flow measuring apparatus of claim 1 wherein the holding tank outlet port is located at the bottom of the holding tank.
    - 34. A method of measuring a small volume flow comprising:
  - a) providing a flow measuring apparatus, the flow measuring apparatus comprising a holding tank, the holding tank having a height, a bottom, and a holding tank outlet port; a metering reservoir, the metering reservoir in fluid communication with the holding tank and further having a volume, a reservoir inlet port, a reservoir outlet port, a top and a bottom; a control valve disposed between the holding tank and the metering reservoir, the control valve capable of allowing or stopping liquid from flowing from the holding tank to the metering reservoir; a liquid level sensor, the liquid level sensor located so as to able to sense a fluid level within the metering

HOU01:664067.3 22

9	reservoir and	operab	ly connected to an upper limit switch and a lower limit switch, the upper limit
10	switch having	g an up	oper set point and the lower limit switch having a lower set point; and an
11	electronics mo	odule, t	the electronics module in electrical communication with the upper limit switch
12	and the lower	limit sv	witch and further in electrical communication with the control valve;
13		b)	providing a fluid within the holding tank, the fluid in the holding tank having
14	a volume;		
15		c)	opening the control valve to allow fluid flow between the holding tank and
16	the metering r	eservoi	r;
17		d)	filling the metering reservoir with the fluid until the upper limit switch is
18	activated;		
19		e)	closing the control valve to stop fluid flow between the holding tank and the
20	metering reser	rvoir;	
21		f)	emptying the metering reservoir of fluid until the lower limit switch is
22	activated; and		
23		g)	measuring the fluid emptied from the metering reservoir.
		2.5	
		35.	The method of measuring a small volume flow of claim 34 wherein the step
2:	of calculating	the flu	uid emptied from the metering reservoir is accomplished with the electronics
n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n n	module or sep	arately	located monitoring equipment.
= b 1		36.	The method of measuring a small values of flow of claim 25 forther
2	comprising:	30.	The method of measuring a small volume of flow of claim 35 further
	comprising.	<b>1</b> 1	
3		calcul	lating the volume of fluid in the holding tank.
1		37.	The method of measuring a small volume flow of claim 34 further
2	comprising:		

powering the electronics module with a battery, a solar panel, or current converted to

HOU01:664067.3 23

a 12-volt de power level.

3

4

1 38. The method of measuring a small volume flow of claim 34 further comprising

2 after step (f):

3

injecting the fluid into a second fluid.

HOU01:664067.3 24